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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6717
INFO RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 8602
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY 1573
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ JAN 9871
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY 6933
RUEHZP/AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY 2924
RUEHQD/AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY 7631
RUEHGL/AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL PRIORITY 4798

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 000275

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/27/2019
TAGS: PTER PGOV PREL ECON SOCI CO
SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON THE CHILD LABOR DRAFT LIST FOR TVPRA

REF: A. SECSTATE 3075
 1B. BOGOTA 2261

Classified By: Political Counselor John S. Creamer.
Reasons: 1.4 (b) and (d).

11. (C) This is a response to the request for comment on the Department of Labor's (DOL) draft list of goods from countries that the Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB) has reason to believe are produced by forced labor or child labor in violation of international standards. Post concurs with DOL that the goods listed are sometimes produced by child labor, but notes that the incidence is low, and occurs almost exclusively in the informal sector or industries that are already criminalized under existing Colombian law.

12. (C) In the case of Colombia, DOL lists:

Bricks (clay) - Child Labor
Coal - Child Labor
Coca (stimulant plant) - Child Labor and Forced Labor
Coffee - Child Labor
Emeralds - Child Labor
Gold - Child Labor
Pornography - Child Labor
Sugarcane - Child Labor

12. (C) As per reftel b, post notes that in the formal sector--where the vast majority of the clay, coal, coffee, emeralds, gold and sugarcane are produced--child labor is not used. The informal, family-based, artisanal mines and farms are where child labor is almost exclusively found, according to International Labor Organization National Coordinator for the International Program to Eliminate Child Labor Liliana Obregon. Colombian economists estimate, for example, that only 1-3% of all coal, gold, clay and emeralds produced in Colombia comes from the informal sector. Post agrees with DOL's finding that some child labor continues to occur in the illegal cultivation of coca as well as the pornography industry.

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